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GAIN Report

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CFIA Consults on Fertilizers Regulations Modernization

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Report Highlights:

As part of CFIA's regulatory modernization strategy, the federal agency launched consultations on the modernization of Canada's Fertilizers Regulations. Stakeholders are invited to submit comments to CFIA by September 17, 2013.

General Information:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is [inviting comments](#) from all interested stakeholders on the future direction of fertilizer and supplement regulation in Canada.

Modernization of Canada's Fertilizers Regulations is part of the CFIA's [regulatory modernization strategy](#). According to a press release, the new proposal takes a risk-based approach, streamlines CFIA regulating activities and allows greater flexibility and less red tape for regulated parties.

For more information on the proposed direction, objectives and principles of the modernized regulations, please read the [Proposed Changes to Fertilizer Program Administration in Canada](#).

The deadline for submitting comments is **September 17, 2013**. Please indicate "Proposed Changes to Fertilizer Program Administration in Canada" in the subject line.

By [email](#): fertilizer@inspection.gc.ca

By mail:

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Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
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Background:

According to a CFIA web-page, the Fertilizer Program of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has been modernizing its policies and requirements since 2006. More recently (December 2011), the CFIA initiated a systematic review of its regulatory frameworks and modernization of the *Fertilizers Regulations* was identified as a short term priority.

In addition, as of April 26th, 2013 the CFIA no longer regulates the quality and efficacy of products regulated under the *Fertilizers Act*. This included discontinuation of pre-market efficacy assessments and verifications of performance/benefit claims as well cessation of marketplace monitoring for product quality. The amendments to the *Fertilizers Regulations* associated with this decision came into force April 26th, 2013, and were published in the [Canada Gazette](#), Part II, on May 8th, 2013. Please note that these changes are independent of the regulatory modernization initiative and are not subject to this consultation.

CFIA states that the regulatory modernization initiative builds on the recent changes to the *Fertilizers Regulations* and represents an opportunity for additional changes to program administration with a

further shift towards risk-based approaches and outcome-based regulations whenever appropriate or applicable. It aims to lessen regulatory burden on products that are deemed safe and have a well-established history of use and to remove prescriptive provisions from the regulations, thus providing for greater flexibility and less red tape on the regulated sector.

The regulatory modernization proposal was developed in consultation with the stakeholder community, namely the [Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum \(CFPF\)](#). The CFIA anticipates that this initiative will bring benefits to the fertilizer and supplement industry, regulated parties, small business owners, users, producers and consumers. The added flexibility is intended to support innovation, reduce regulatory burden, and expedite time to market for safe fertilizers and supplements thus facilitating farmers' access to innovative agricultural inputs.